

Message Text

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ACTION AF-07

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CG, BE, PFOR

SUBJECT: IMPROVING BELGO-ZAIRIAN RELATIONS

REF: (A) KINSHASA 9811, (B) KINSHASA 9400

1. BELGIAN EMBASSY COUNSELOR RAULIER TOLD EMBOFF NOVEMBER 21 THAT BELGO-ZAIRIAN MIXED COMMISSION WILL PROBABLY MEET IN BRUSSELS AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL EARLY NEXT YEAR AS RESULT OF JUST CONCLUDED VISIT OF MPR POLITICAL DIRECTOR NGUZA TO BRUSSELS. SEIZING OCCASION OF GUZA'S PRESENCE AS GUEST OF BELGIAN SOCIALIST PART CONGRESS, GOB INVITED HIM TO MEET WITH FONMIN VAN ELSLANDE AND PM TINDEMANS. NGUZA ACCEPTED AFTER CLEARING WITH MOBUTU.

2. BELGIAN FONMIN REPORT INDICATES VAN ELSLANDE/NGUZA TALK WAS CORDIAL AND WIDE RANGING. (REPORT ON TINDEMANS/NGUZA MEETING NOT YET RECEIVED BY BELGIAN EMBASSY.) NGUZA SAID GOZ WOULD LIKE TO SEE BELGIAN AID CONTINUE TO FOCUS ON SUCH AREAS AS EDUCATION, AGRICULTURE AND INFRA-STRUCTURE. IN TURN VAN ELSLANDE OUTLINED PROCEDURES GOB WOULD LIKE TO FOLLOW IN SEEKING SETTLEMENT OF BELGIAN CLAIMS STEMMING FROM ZAIRIANIZATION MEASURES. NGUZA SAID HE WOULD DISCUSS THESE WITH MOBUTU AND INDICATED AWARENESS OF COMPLEXITY OF PROBLEM. RAULIER POINTS OUT THAT SOME BELGIANS HAVE ALREADY REACHED PRIVATE SETTLE-
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MENT WITH NEW ZAIRIAN OWNERS AND OTHERS ARE OPPOSED TO GRANTING

AUTHORITY TO GOB TO NEGOTIATE SETTLEMENT IN THEIR BEHALF. NGUZA
ASKED IF GOB WAS BEHIND "SYNDICATE" OF BELGIAN EXOWNERS OF PROPERTY
IN ZAIRE WHICH APPARENTLY GETTING PUBLICITY IN BELGIUM. HE WAS
ASSURED THAT SYNDICATE WAS WHOLLY INDEPENDENT OF GOB. BELGIAN SIDE
WAS FAVORABLY IMPRESSED BY NGUZA'S CLOSE FAMILIARITY WITH OUTSTANDING
PROBLEMS BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES. WAS ALSO PLEASED THAT IT WAS
ZAIRIAN SIDE THAT PROPOSED NEXT MEETING OF MIXED COMMISSION TAKE
PLACE
IN BRUSSELS. (LAST MEETING WAS IN KINSHASA, BUT BELGIANS FEARED GOZ
MIGHT INSIST THAT IT BE HELD THERE AGAIN FOR PRESTIGE REASONS.)

3. SYMPTOM OF WARMING TREND WAS INVITATION BY FONMIN UMBA-DI-LUTETE
TO BELGIAN AMBASSADOR KERREMANS AND SEVERAL MEMBERS OF HIS STAFF TO
DINNER ON NOVEMBER 20. DINNER WAS HELD IN VERY FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE
ALTHOUGH NO MATTERS OF SUBSTANCE AROSE. (UMBA ENTERTAINED HIS GUESTS
WITH TV SHOWING OF ALI-FORMAN FIGHT IN REBROADCAST FROM BRAZZAVILLE.)
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